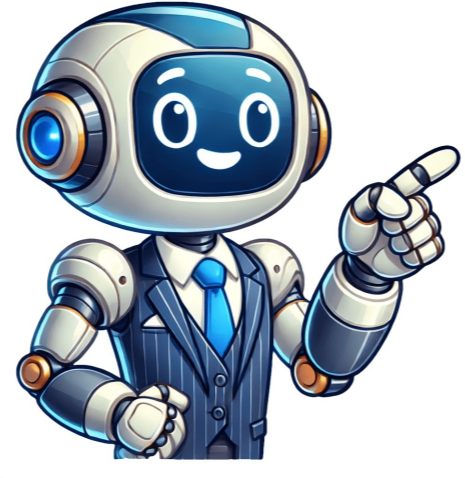


I'm not a bot



The possessive case (also sometimes called the genitive case) is the case of nouns and pronouns that denote ownership, possession, or occupancy. For example, Susies cat ran away. I jumped into the drivers seat. Having Susie in the possessive case shows that it is her cat that ran away and not someone elses. It also shows in which seat I jumped. I jumped into the seat that belongs to the driver. You can form the possessive singular of nouns by adding an apostrophe and an s (s). This just means to add an s to all nouns that are singular. George is only one person, so in order to form the possessive singular we simply add an s. The possessive plural is formed by adding only an apostrophe (except for a few irregular plurals that do not end in s). For example, The Johnsons house is very large. The puppies paws are so cute! The childrens books are in the library. Pronominal possessives (mine, ours, your, yours, his, hers, its, theirs, whose) do not have apostrophes. For example, I read a book of hers last year for school. Is this yours? Indefinite pronouns, however, do use apostrophes. For example, One must fight for ones rights. I think this is somebody elses glass. Multiword compound nouns are formed into the possessive by adding the appropriate ending on the last word. For example, My brother-in-laws music collection is quite impressive. What about Words Ending in S? There is some debate whether to include an s after singular words ending in s. For example, Dennis shoes or Dennis shoes? Kansas schools or Kansas schools? Strunk and Whites famous book The Elements of Style states in rule 1 to add s no matter what the final consonant. Other Style guides like the Chicago Manual of Style agree largely with Strunk and White, while the AP Stylebook uses only an apostrophe for proper names ending in s and common nouns ending in s where the first letter of the next word is s. Dennis shoes (correct in Chicago Style) Dennis shoes (correct in AP Style) Kansas schools (correct in Chicago Style) Kansas school (correct in AP Style) The Chicago Manual of Style does, however, have exceptions to Strunk and Whites general rule and some further options to consider. For more information and style guide specific rules, see our full page on possessives in Chicago Style and AP Style. Possessives in English play a vital role in expressing ownership or close relationships between nouns, answering the question of who or what something belongs to. Whether through possessive pronouns, possessive adjectives, or specific noun forms, these structures help make sentences clear and precise. This guide breaks down the various ways possession is indicated in English from standalone possessive pronouns like mine to the nuanced use of apostrophes with singular and plural nouns offering practical examples and tips to enhance your understanding and application of possessives in everyday communication. Possessive pronouns (independent possessive pronouns): These replace a noun and show possession without needing another noun to follow. Mine This is mine. Yours This is yours. His This is his. Hers This is hers. Its This is its. Ours This is ours. Theirs This is theirs. Possessive adjectives (dependent possessive pronouns): These are used before a noun to indicate who owns or is associated with it. My This is my dog. Your This is your dog. His This is his dog. Her This is her dog. Its This is its collar. Our This is our dog. Their This is their dog. Singular Nouns: Add an apostrophe followed by an s (s). Example: The cats tail (the tail belonging to the cat) Plural Nouns Ending in s: Just add an apostrophe after the s. Example: The cats tails (the tails belonging to multiple cats) Plural Nouns Not Ending in s: Add an apostrophe followed by s (s). Example: The childrens toys (the toys belonging to the children) Compound Nouns: The last word in the compound takes the possessive form. Example: My brother-in-laws car Joint Possession: If two or more people possess something together, only the last name takes the possessive form. If they have possession separately, each name takes the possessive form. Example: John and Marys house (they share the house) Example: Johns and Marys houses (each has their own house) Animals, Organizations, Countries: Often treated with the possessive form, though sometimes theres debate on usage: The dogs bark / The companys policy / Indias history Inanimate Objects: Some style guides prefer the of construction for inanimate objects for clarity, though possessive forms are widely used: The books cover vs. The cover of the book Time and Distance: Can be treated as possessive: A days work An hours delay Be consistent in your use of possessives within your writing or project. In spoken English, possessive forms are often indicated by context rather than explicit possessive markers. Watch out for contractions like its (it is or it has) which are not possessive forms. This article explains the use of possessives in English to denote ownership or association. Possessive pronouns (e.g., mine, yours, hers) stand alone to replace nouns, while possessive adjectives (e.g., my, your, their) precede nouns to describe ownership (e.g., my dog). For nouns, possession is shown by adding s to singular nouns (e.g., the cats tail), an apostrophe after s for plural nouns ending in s (e.g., the cats tails), or s for irregular plurals (e.g., the childrens toys). Special cases include compound nouns (e.g., brother-in-laws car), joint possession (e.g., John and Marys house), and possessives with animals, organizations, or time (e.g., a days work). The guide notes alternatives like the of construction for inanimate objects (e.g., the cover of the book) and cautions against confusing contractions like its with the possessive its. Mastering possessives enhances clarity in expressing relationships and is key to effective English usage. Subscribe to get the latest posts sent to your email. Grammar contents View all Present perfect and past perfect Present perfect continuous Quantifiers, possessives and demonstratives A possessive noun is a noun that shows ownership or a direct connection, usually identified by s. Possessive nouns help communicate the relationships between nouns. For example, in the phrase the students notes, the word students is a possessive noun, showing that the notes belong to the student. Plural possessive nouns follow different rules depending on their ending letters. Compound and hyphenated possessive nouns follow the same rules as singular and plural possessive nouns. Possessive pronouns can be used in place of possessive nouns. Possessive nouns can get confusing, especially when youre making a noun ending in s possessive or learning to use the correct possessive forms of plural nouns. Below, we explain everything you need to know about possessive nouns and give plenty of examples. The AI writing assistant for anyone with work to do Table of contents What is a possessive noun? Singular possessive nouns Plural possessive nouns Possessive pronouns Irregular possessive nouns Possessive rules Common mistakes with possessive nouns Possessive nouns FAQs What is a possessive noun? Possessive nouns are nouns that show ownership or a direct connection. Typically, singular possessive nouns use an apostrophe (') and the letter s at the end of the word to take the possessive form. Almost any noun can become possessive, even abstract nouns dog -> dogs Maria -> Marias The Empire State Building -> The Empire State Buildings Pay close attention to that apostrophe: In English, we also add s to the ends of words to make them plural. So the apostrophe can determine whether a noun is possessive or plural, as with boys versus boys. Here, boys means more than one boy (plural), but boys means one boy has ownership over something (singular possessive). Possessive nouns are followed by the object of the possessive. In this possessive example, the desk is the thing that Kali owns because it comes directly after the possessive noun: There are three books on Kalis desk. In other words, Kali owns the desk. The object of the possessive is the first noun after the possessive noun, usually immediately afterward. However, you can still include some adjectives to describe the object of the possessive. Kalis messy desk has been cluttered for as long as Ive known her. Possessive nouns can also show a relationship between two people or the relationship between a person and a place or an idea. For example, Sallys husband and Tahivs cosmic theory are also phrases that contain possessive nouns. What is the possessive case? The possessive case is used to show ownership of something (Sanjays phone) or a direct connection to something (Sanjays sister). Lets look at some examples of possessives in a sentence. Aiguo grabbed his hat from Tonys car. There are two possessives in this sentence. The possessive adjective his, which reflects Aiguo, shows ownership of the hat. The possessive noun Tonys, identified by the s, shows ownership of the car. What is a possessive adjective? Like possessive nouns, possessive adjectives show ownership or a direct connection. They correspond to English pronouns, matching person, gender, and number. Additionally, the possessive adjective whose acts as the possessive form of the relative pronoun who, and it can introduce relative phrases and clauses. Unlike the possessive nouns below, possessive adjectives do not use apostrophes. This is especially pertinent for the possessive adjective its, which is notoriously confused with the contraction its, meaning it is. Prepositional alternatives You can also show ownership or connection without possessive nouns by using the preposition of. Shaima revered the desk of Kali. In this case, the owner (Kali) is the object of a prepositional phrase with of, and the thing that is owned (the desk) comes first. You do not need an apostrophe or the letter s when using this construction. When a sentence is constructed this way, it generally highlights the object rather than its owner. In the example above, positioning the desk as the focal point underscores Shaimas reverence for it. This construction is often found in academic and formal contexts, as it also conveys a formal tone. The four types of possessive nouns There are four types of possessive nouns: Singular possessive nouns: These are standard singular nouns that become possessive by adding an apostrophe and the letter s. Example: We rode in Javiers car. Plural possessive nouns: These are plural nouns that end in s. They are made plural by adding an apostrophe after the s. Example: It was the students last day. Possessive pronouns: Like all other pronouns, these stand in for possessive nouns and follow antecedents to make sentences flow more easily. Example: Derek offered Brenda a soda, which was in his refrigerator. Irregular possessive nouns: Irregular nouns, like teeth, become irregular possessive nouns by following rules unlike those for regular nouns. Example: The heroes capes are yellow. Read on to learn more about each type of possessive noun. Singular possessive nouns Singular possessive nouns are regular nouns that are made possessive by adding an s. The most basic form of possessive nouns is the singular possessive noun. The formula for singular possessive nouns is: [singular noun] + [s] Nouns that end in s, especially proper nouns, can cause a lot of confusion. However, its OK to add an s after an s, as long as the noun is singular (the bosses chair). Keep in mind that this includes both mass nouns and collective nouns. Mass nouns are nouns that are uncountable and dont have a plural form, like sand or money. Collective nouns are singular nouns that represent multiple things, like team or family. Singular possessive noun examples Carlross school is three miles away. The soccer teams captain was injured in a game. Studying economics helped me understand moneys value. I adjusted the dogs collar. Shira and Kyle planned Amits birthday party. Plural possessive nouns Plural possessive nouns are plural nouns that end in s. Plural nouns are more challenging to make possessive because they already have an s at the end. As you can see below, the proper construction adds only an apostrophe to the end. The formula for plural possessive nouns is: [plural noun] + ['] However, proper nouns and general nouns that end in s, such as Carlos or class, still use s. Plural possessive noun examples The glasses are under the bottles shelf. It was perfect weather for the teams tournament. Youll need at least three years experience for this role. The monkeys calls rang out through the canopy. Her company designed the books covers. Possessive pronouns Possessive pronouns are the noun form of pronouns that show possession. Like regular pronouns, they are used instead of other nouns to avoid repetition. Unlike other possessive nouns, possessive pronouns do not come before the object of the possessive. Usually, what a pronoun refers to is mentioned earlier, and you use the possessive pronoun instead of repeating the original word. Be careful to not confuse possessive pronouns with the possessive adjectives mentioned above. Possessive pronouns act as nouns, not adjectives. You must use them as nouns. Mine computer has caused me nothing but trouble. That computer of mine has caused me nothing but trouble. Possessive pronouns examples I dont have a calculator. Can I borrow yours? I wish I had hair like hers. Sarahs parking spot is closer than mine. Their house isnt as nice as ours. Our vacation is in September. When is theirs? Irregular possessive nouns Not all nouns take a plural form by adding s. Irregular plural nouns, like children or teeth, each have unique plural forms. The possessive form of irregular plural nouns depends on whether or not they already end in an s. If the irregular plural noun has an s at the end, add only an apostrophe. Example: knives handles If the irregular plural noun does not have an s at the end, add both an apostrophe and an s. Example: teeths reflection Irregular possessive noun examples We followed them back to the geeses flock. (singular: geoses flock) Thats the site of the wolves den. (singular: wolfs den) We enjoyed a heroes feast. (singular: heros feast) The band played childrens music. (singular: childs music) The tomatoes color was vibrant. (singular: tomatos color) Possessive noun rules Possessive nouns follow consistent rules. These rules exist to make possessive nouns meanings clear, as they can become muddled when writers make mistakes. This is especially true in sentences that contain compound possessives or hyphenated possessive nouns. Want to make sure youre using possessive nouns correctly in your writing? Grammarly can save you from grammar and punctuation mistakes. It even checks your spelling and proofreads your text, so your work is polished wherever you write. How to form possessives with two or more nouns Forming a possessive with two or more nouns depends on whether the nouns relate to the same or different things. These are known as compound possessives. What if more than one person owns something? If multiple nouns own or connect to the same object, only the last one in the series is possessive. We watched Karlie and Jessies band play. Thats the soccer team and field hockey teams field. What if two or more nouns each own different versions of something? In this case, make each separate noun possessive. We visited the science teachers and art teachers rooms. Americas and Canadas political policies are aligned. Jules and Juanitas cats are black. Notice how, in these examples, the objects of the possessive are also plural (rooms, policies, cats) because theres more than one. How to form possessives with hyphenated and compound nouns Hyphenated and compound nouns can seem tricky, but theyre actually pretty simple. If theyre singular, just add an apostrophe and an s to the final word. They raised the trash cans lid. I love my mother-in-laws cooking. If the nouns are plural with a regular s at the end, add only an apostrophe to the final word. Hes always reading news blogs articles. X-rays images are a critical diagnostic tool. However, if the word is plural without an s at the end, add both an apostrophe and an s to the final word. We both examined our mothers-in-laws behaviors. These are the academically advanced childrens textbooks. How to add emphasis with the adjective own Use the adjective own before the object of the possessive to add a special emphasis. This is useful when you want to draw attention to the ownership or connection to communicate your meaning more effectively. Abels own brother betrayed him. Napoleons own mansion is now a national museum. I was so proud that my own team showed up for my award. After moving in, they built their own garden. Can you believe she ratted out her own sister? Common mistakes with possessive nouns Familiarizing yourself with common mistakes writers make with possessive nouns can help you avoid them in your own writing. Here are a few examples of common possessive noun mistakes: Its vs. its. Contrary to other possessive pronouns, the possessive form of it is its. This is because its (with the apostrophe) is a contraction for it is. Possessive: The duck flapped its wings. Contraction: I should go. Its getting late. Singular vs. plural possessives Singular possessive nouns end with an apostrophe plus s. Plural possessive nouns that end in s end with an apostrophe. With these, the apostrophe goes after the s. Singular: The boys shirt was red. Plural: The boys shirts were red. Overuse of possessive forms You can also show possession with the possessive form of. For example, you might write of the dog instead of dogs. This is not grammatically incorrect, but it can be awkward, especially when used excessively. Possessive nouns FAQs What are possessive nouns? Possessive nouns are used to show ownership or a direct connection. They are commonly recognized by the apostrophe and letter s at the end, as in Charlottes Web or the trees branches. What are the four types of possessive nouns? There are four kinds of possessive nouns: singular possessive nouns (one dogs bone), plural possessive nouns (many dogs bones), possessive pronouns (bones of theirs), and irregular possessive nouns (the wolves bones). When should you use possessive nouns? Use possessive nouns to communicate the relationship between two nouns, such as a person and an item they own, two people, or a person and an idea. Example: Emmas book is on the table. Can you use possessive nouns with inanimate objects? Possessive nouns can be used with inanimate objects, especially to indicate a direct connection or ownership. However, in some formal or academic writing, it might be preferable to use prepositional phrases like the engine of the car. Examples: The cars engine or The books cover. How do you use possessives with joint ownership? If two or more nouns jointly own something, only the final noun should be in the possessive form. Example: Jake and Emilys house (they share one house). If each noun owns something separately, make each noun possessive: Jakes and Emilys houses (two different houses). Your writing, at its best. Works on all your favorite websites Related Articles One of the distinctive features of the noun is its ability to own something, to possess something. We show this act of possession by adding a possessive ending, typically an apostrophe s (Fred's report) to a singular noun and just an apostrophe to a plural noun (the persons' rights) (but children's toys). Here's the rule for nouns: Form the possessive of all singular nouns, even those ending in s by adding apostrophe s. Many writers make the mistake of adding just an apostrophe to form the possessive of singular nouns ending in s. This is rule 1, page 1 of Strunk & White's The Elements of Style. Thus, the following are correct: the boss's priorities Congress's committees Bridget Jones's Diary Theoretically, an inanimate object or abstract idea cannot possess anything, but writers routinely use possessive endings with inanimate objects, as in the rocket's red glare. These are technically called false possessives. Some of the indefinite pronouns form their possessives with a possessive ending: another ('s), anybody ('s), anyone ('s), each one ('s), either ('s), everybody ('s), everyone ('s), neither ('s), no one ('s), nobody ('s), one ('s), other ('s), others'), and somebody ('s). But other pronouns have special forms to show possession: my, mine, our, ours, his, her, hers, its, their, and theirs. Also, make sure you form the possessive of the neuter pronoun it like this: its. Many people incorrectly use it's and write things like We enjoyed it's plot. Wrong. We enjoyed its plot.

Possessiva pronomen tyska. Possessiva pronomen svenska. Possessive pronouns svenska. Possessive pronouns swedish.

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